

<b>Policy Number:</b>	<b>DIS-001</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>02/17/2016</b>
<b>Staff Affected:</b>	<b>All Staff</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Dogs with Heartworm</b>
<b>Replaces:</b>	<b>New Policy</b>

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Statutes and Rules:***

The department is responsible for administering Wisconsin's animal health programs, pursuant to Ch. 95, Wis. Stats. The programs are designed to protect the health of animals in this state, and to prevent, control and eradicate communicable diseases among animals.

Wis. Stat. § 93.07 (1): To protect the health of animals located in this state and of humans residing in this state, the department may establish, maintain, enforce, and regulate quarantines and other measures relating to the importation, movement and care of animals and their products, the disinfection of suspected localities and articles, and the disposition of animals, as the department determines are necessary.

Wis. Stats. § 95.19 (2) (a) and (b) and (3) (a): No person may knowingly sell, transport or exhibit an animal that is exposed to or infected with a contagious or infectious disease except if the transport of such animal is authorized by a department permit.

Wis. Stats. § 95.19 (2) (c): No person may conceal that an animal that is imported, sold, transported, or exhibited has been exposed to or infected with a contagious or infectious disease.

Wis. Stat. § 95.19 (2) (d): No person may knowingly misrepresent that an animal has not been exposed to or infected with a contagious or infectious disease.

Wis. Stat. § 95.19 (2) (e): No person may knowingly permit an animal that has been exposed to or infected with a contagious or infectious disease to commingle with other animals under conditions that may cause the disease to spread to an animal owned by another person.

Wis. Stat. § 95.20: The department may prohibit or regulate the importing of animals into this state or the movement of animals within the state if the department has reasonable grounds to believe that regulation or prohibition is necessary to prevent the introduction or spread of a disease in this state that threatens the health of animals or of humans.

Wis. Admin. Code chs. 10 and 12: Persons importing animals to this state shall comply with applicable import requirements.

Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 10.07 (1) (b): The state veterinarian may by written notice, or by oral notice confirmed in writing, direct a person to comply with additional import requirements if the state veterinarian determines, based on an epidemiological evaluation of current disease risks in the herd, or state or nation of origin, that those additional requirements are needed to prevent the spread of disease to this state.

Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 10.07 (1) (c): No person who receives a notice of an additional import requirement may import an animal in violation of the additional import requirement.

Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 10.80 (2) (a): No person may import any dog into this state unless it is accompanied by a valid certificate of veterinary inspection which must include, the age of the dog; a report of rabies vaccination if required, including the date on which the dog was last vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian; the date on which the dog is due to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated for rabies.

Wis. Stat. § 173.41 (2): With some exceptions, no person may operate an animal shelter without an annual license as a dog seller and dog facility operator.

Wis. Admin. Code §§ ATCP 16.01 (9) and 16.14 (2): An individual may keep dogs for a licensed animal shelter as a "home custody provider."

Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 16.16: No person that is required to hold a dog seller and dog facility operator license may sell, which includes adoptions for any fee, a dog in this state without a valid Certificate of Veterinary Inspection ("CVI").

This rule requires that the CVI must include specified information, including the following statement, or substantially similar statement, that is based on a personal examination by the veterinarian making the statement:

"I certify, as a veterinarian, that I have inspected the dogs identified on this certificate and that the dogs are not showing any signs of infectious, contagious or communicable disease, except as otherwise noted on this certificate. Vaccinations and test results are as indicated on this certificate. This certificate is not a warranty."

#### ***Heartworm:***

Heartworm disease is a serious, progressive disease that results in severe lung disease, heart failure, other organ damage, and death in dogs. It is caused by a parasitic worm called *Dirofilaria immitis*. The worms are spread through the bite of a mosquito.

Heartworms have been found in all 50 states, but southern states have a higher risk of heartworm than others due to factors affecting the level of risk of heartworm infection, including climate (temperature, humidity), the species of mosquitoes in the area, and presence of mosquito breeding areas.

The relocation of microfilaremic dogs, dogs which carry heartworms in their heart and bloodstream, and the expansion of the territories of microfilaremic wild canids in other areas of the United States, continue to be important factors contributing to further dissemination of the parasite.

#### **POLICY**

##### ***Imported dogs:***

Any dog found to be positive on a heartworm test in the state of origin may not be imported into Wisconsin until it has completed the appropriate heartworm treatment protocol as recommended by the American Heartworm Society (see <https://www.heartwormsociety.org>). After the treatment is completed, a veterinarian must state on the CVI that the dog was treated for heartworm and record all treatment dates. Once these conditions are met, no further permission is required for import.

An untreated heartworm positive dog may only be imported to this state if a Special Permit is issued by the Wisconsin State Veterinarian, granting permission to import an untreated heartworm positive dog.

**Wisconsin dogs:**

A dog in Wisconsin found to be positive on a heartworm test may not be sold/transferred/adopted until it has completed the appropriate treatment protocol as recommended by the American Heartworm Society (see <https://www.heartwormsociety.org/>). After the treatment is completed, a veterinarian must state on the CVI that the dog was treated for heartworm and record all treatment dates.

An untreated dog in Wisconsin found to be positive for heartworm may be sold/transferred/adopted if all of the following conditions are met:

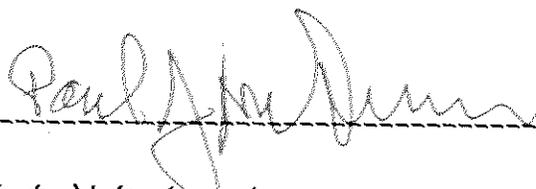
- Full disclosure of the dog's condition is provided by the dog seller/shelter to the buyer/recipient/adopter.
- A signed statement is provided by the buyer/recipient/adopter and submitted to the state veterinarian or designee stating that the dog will be treated with the appropriate treatment.
- The buyer/recipient/adopter's statement is approved by the state veterinarian or designee.

A copy of the approved statement will be kept in animal records maintained by the division of animal health.

**Appropriate heartworm treatment:**

Appropriate heartworm treatment in this policy means the treatment protocol as recommended by the American Heartworm Society (see <https://www.heartwormsociety.org/>).

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 2/18/16

State Veterinarian  
Paul J. McGraw, DVM

